

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, and 16-20, as amended, are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to include subject matter indicated as allowable.

In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents. As no new matter has been added, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments at this time.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 8-11, 12-14, and 16-19 are allowable. As shown above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to include subject matter indicated as allowable. In light of these amendments, Applicants submit that the entirety of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 2000-241782 to Kai *et al.* ("Kai"). As discussed above, however, Applicants have amended the claims to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. As such, Applicants submit that the Examiner's § 102 rejections are moot.

CONCLUSION


All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present amendments and remarks still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith extending the time for response three months to and including February 5, 2009. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any other fees be due, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-4545, Order No. 5243-017-US01.

Respectfully submitted,
HANIFY & KING, P.C.

Dated: February 5, 2009

By: _____


Siddhesh V. Pandit, Registration No. 58,572
HANIFY & KING, P.C.
1875 K Street, NW
Suite 707
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 403-2104 Telephone
(202) 429-4380 Facsimile